OFFICIAL REPORT, BUDGET SESSION 1119

Monday, *the* *7th August 1944*
23rd Karkadagam 1119

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir George Boag K.C.I.E., C.S.I.) in the Chair.

Messrs. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, H. J. Walmesely, K. R. Ramakrishnan, T. V. Kochuvareed, L. M. Pylee and Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Fair Price Shops—Particulars of

234. (m) Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(1) The number of Fair Price Shops under the control and discipline of the Food Department in which commodities have been found damaged;

(2) The quantity of commodities so damaged;

(3) The value of the damaged commodities;

(4) The causes of it?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

(1) Sixty-seven.

(2)

Commodity	*Weight*	*Para*	*Ed.*	*Nazhi*
Gram		86	7	1
Jowar		37	4	0
Moongdhall		7	1	3
Atta	1823 lbs.			
Gramdhall		105	5	2
Barley		21	6	1½
Gramflour	254 lbs.			
Moong		2	0	1
Ragi		83	4	3
Bajra		104	7	3
Rice		62	6	0
Gur	25 cwt 25¾ lbs.			
Rawa	10 lbs.			
Mazur	159 lbs.			
Maize		151	6	2
Toordhall		31	6	1
Lakh		10	0	0
Paddy		8	5	0
Black gram		2	1	2
Maida flour	70¾ lbs.			

(3) Rs. 3613—13—7.

(4) The damage to a large extent was as a result of natural deterioration and shrinkage. In the case of jowar, gram, blackgram, moong, maize and like food grains the deterioration was due to want of demand and consequent long delay to dispose of the stock. The perishable nature of the foodgrains in some cases was the cause of their speedy deterioration. Atmospheric conditions as also the inconvenient and close stocking of goods for want of sufficient godown space have caused deterioration to some extent.

As regards rice the shortage noticed is brought about under the circumstances noted below. A quantity of 520 paras of rice was stocked in the Thiruvilwamala Fair Price Shop towards close of Thulam 1119 and the major portion (about 400 paras) of rice had to be recovered thereto

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from the Madapalli Mill, the license of which was about to be cancelled. There was no other ration shop in the locality as no retailer came forward to run the shop here. There are a large number of ration cards amounting to about 1,000 attached to this shop. It however transpired that the demand for rice was much below what was expected. A major portion of the stock had therefore to be kept unsold for more than three months when signs of deterioration began to appear. The rice was then got cleaned and remeasured. The major portion was since transferred to the Wadakkancheri Depot. A shortage of 61 paras 3 edangalies was found when the rice was re-measured.

Depressed class colonies

234. (n) Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(1) The number of houses in each of the several Depressed Classes colonies in the State showing separately the houses constructed by the Government and the houses constructed by the Depressed Classes themselves in the begining of (*i*) 1118 and (*ii*) 1119;

(2) The number of houses fallen in each of the Depressed Classes colonies in the winter of 1118 due to neglected thatching in the above two sets of buildings;

(3) What is the usual practice adopted giving thatching materials or money;

(4) Who was to conduct the thatching in 1118;

(5) Whether Government has taken any steps to find out how the buildings fell down and whose remissness in duty brought in about;

(6) If so, what was the punishment noted out to the defaulter;

(7) Whot was the Protector of the Depressed Classes then?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(1) Number of houses in the beginning of 1118—please see statement placed on the Council Table. The exact number at the beginning of 1119 cannot be stated in view of the answer to (2)

(2) The exact number of houses fallen in the winter of 1118 is being collected by a Committee appointed to enquire into the matter and the Committee's report is awaited.

(3) The usual practice is to supply thatching materials.

(4) The Department of Public Health and Panchayats.

(5) Yes. A Committee has been constituted to enquire and report about the causes for destruction of the houses and to suggest measures for future adoption.

(6) The Committee's report is awaited.

(7) Messrs V. C. Ramankutty till 24th Dhanu 1118; Messrs. K. Narayana Menon till 12th Makaram 1118, and A. R. Raman.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to inform the House whether it would not have been easier to find out the answer to sub-division No. (1) at least by giving an approximate number of the houses which have fallen?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The question is with regard to the exact number of houses fallen. Some houses may not have actually fallen but there may be some which have been damaged. To ascertian the exact details a Committee has been constituted and the committee is making enquiries and they will be submitting their report.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: May I know why the Hon'ble Minister wants to make an enquiry into the question as to the number of houses fallen.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I think I answered that question now. It is not possible to ascertain the number of houses fallen-off hand. Some houses have actually collapsed. Some have been partially damaged. Whether it is to be included in the category of fallen houses or not I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: The function of the Committee would be to go into the causes of the falling.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Hon'ble Member is criticising the answers of the Hon'ble Minister and not asking for any information.

Mr. K. T. Achyuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: When was the committee appointed.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: A few months ago.

Mr. K. T. Achyuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Roughly how many months, please?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: To or three months, ago.

Mr. K. T. Achuthan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: May I know, the reason for this delay of about 9 months?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: The question was gone into in detail by the Protector of the Depressed Classes and Government thought it is better to appoint a committee to go into the question in detail.

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